**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—

(a) Yes.

(b) The work is entrusted to contractor Mr. P. Maney at 22½ per cent less than the estimated rates.

A copy of the contract agreement executed by the contractor is appended. *(Appendix IV).*

(c) The materials are being collected.

## Expenditure—State Motor cars—particulars regarding.

**156. Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. (a) the number of motor cars kept by the State;

(b) the amount invested on them (i) for purchase, (ii) for repairs;

(c) the amount spent in 1111 and 1112 for the upkeep, maintenance, etc., of the cars; what amounts were spent under the various heads of expenditure;

2. what all works are attended to by the Mechanical Section of the Engineering Department; what does it cost the Government for its upkeep yearly;

3. (a) will the Government be pleased to state when the cars advertised by the State for sale in the last 3 years were purchased;

(b) the price paid for each car when purchased;

(c) the price fetched at the auction sale of each car?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—

1. (a) 24 including 3 lorries.

(b) i. About Rs. 1,98,000.

ii. The amounts spent on upkeep and maintenance in the years 1111 and 1112 are given below against sub-division (c).

(c) Expenditure for the establishment of motor cars and boats in 1111—Rs. 16,954.

Do in 1112 till the end of Edavam—Rs. 14,561.

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Expenditure on account of cost of oils, spares and repairs for motor cars and boats in 1111—Rs. 25,146.

Do in 1112 till the end of Edavam—Rs. 33,367.

2. The Mechanical Section of the Engineering Department is in charge of all the Water Works, Electrical Installations, State Conveyances, the Sirkar tents and the Dredger. The total establishment charges of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Branch come to about Rs. 73,800. This also includes the pay and allowances of the car and boat staff.

3. (a), (b) and (c). A statement showing the details is appended. *(Appendix V).*

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—Sub-division (2). Have the dredger staff work throughout the year?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—No. When the Dredger staff will have no work in the Dredger they will work in the workshop.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—Appendix V. Are they being used, these two cars, Renault and Chevrolet-Six?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—No. They are not being used.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—Have no attempts been made to give them in exchange for new cars?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—Yes.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila)*—With what result?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—They were not accepted.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—Was any attempt made to give the Crossley car in exchange?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaskha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—No. It was sold.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—No attempt was made to give the car in exchange?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—No.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether all these 21 cars are used by the State?

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**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—Yes. Excepting the 3 cars which are not in good condition, all the other cars are in service.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** (*Nellayi*).—What all items are included in the establishment?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—The pay of all drivers and cleaners of motor-cars.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** (*Nellayi*).—Does it include petrol?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—Petrol is not included.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—My question was who uses these 21 cars. The answer was that excepting the 3 cars which are out of use, the rest are used. Who uses these 21 cars?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—These cars are used for State purposes.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—Without violating any of your rules can you not give further explanation than that these 21 cars are used by the State?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—It is not possible to give the names of all the persons who use the cars. They are used by several persons for State purposes.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know whether anybody other than the Royalty and the Diwan, is using these cars?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—For the purpose of State guests also these cars have been used.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know whether any officer of the State is using a State car?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** (*Chief Engineer*).—I have no information.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Wadakkancheri*).—Are we to take it that these 21 cars are used by Royal personages, by the Diwan and for the purpose of giving convenient conveyance to our State guests?

**Mr. President.**—Under orders of Royalty.

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**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—I think these three will exhaust the list. We are very much obliged to you, Sir, I shall not continue that question, because I understand what it is.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Are any of the Government servants other than the Diwan using the cars regularly?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—I have no information.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Does the department get a list of the cars or diary of the cars showing as to who are all using those cars?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—We get a diary of the cars and we do not know who are all using these cars.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Is there not a rule in the department enjoining upon the subordinates who are in charge of the cars to show as to who are all using these cars?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—These cars are stationed in 3 different places—a set of cars is kept in Ernakulam, another set of cars is kept in Trippunithura for the use of the Princes and another set of cars is kept in the Hill Palace for the use of His Highness the Maharaja and one car is for the use of the Diwan.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Sir, that is no answer to my question. My question is whether there are records in the department which will show as to the persons who use the respective cars and the petrol consumed by each of the cars.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—We have no information. We have got the records to show the number of miles run by the cars and the petrol consumed by the cars. These are under different heads and all drives are conducted under proper authority.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Will the records maintained by the Department show whether any of the Government servants other than the Diwan have been using these cars?

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**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—No.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** (*Urakam*).—Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—Government do not think it necessary to make an enquiry into the matter.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Is it not the duty of the Government to see that the cars purchased and maintained by them are properly used and by the persons entitled to use them?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—Certainly.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** (*Urakam*).—May I know why the Government does not do it?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—These cars are driven under orders of certain persons who have got the power to do it and so long as we know that these cars are being sent under orders of a competent authority we do not wish to go further and see who are the persons that use the cars.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Is that officer given complete power to do as he likes?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—Yes. At the Hill Palace the Sarvadhikariakar has got the power. In Trippunithura, the Special Palace Officer has got the power and at Ernakulam the Mechanical Engineer has got the power.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—May I know, Sir, whether the Government has no power to ask them to show how they use it? Have not the Government even the power of supervision of the way in which they are being used?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—We cannot exercise any supervision or any check.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know, Sir, whether with these 21 cars the needs of the members of the Royal House are met?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*—As far as possible.

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## APPENDIX V.

*(Question No. 156.)*

| Names of car | When purchased | Cost price Rs. | Selling price Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crossley ... | 18— 2—1105 | 9,750 | 400 |
| Chryaler ... | 18—6—1104 | 4,410 | Exchanged for new cars |
| Chevrolet-six sedan ... | 16—12—1107 | 4,532 | |
| Hudson ... | 1101 | 6,500 | |
| Renault ... | 23— 3—1105 | 4,575 | No bidders — So kept at the garage |
| Chevrolet-Six ... | 21—11—1105 | 2,607 | |

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